not been able to match the growth of EXIM trade from India thereby foreign ships carry large amount of Indian cargo. Freight rates are decided on competitive basis.

Under performance of NHAI

1749. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the road sector projects are proving to be a speed-breaker along the infrastructure highway, with the sector being the poorest performer among all infrastructure sectors during April-June, 2006;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the road sector growth decelerated by a striking 37 per cent during the first quarter of the fiscal; and

(c) if so, whether Government have made investigations to find out the cause of under performance of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the action proposed thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) There was a press report indicating 37% decrease in growth rate. In fact declining trend in terms of the completed length is on account of the fact that National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-I is gradually getting completed and only a part of it remains to be completed due to poor performance of contractors, while NHDP Phase-II projects have been awarded recently and their completion date is 2009.

Collection of Toll Tax

1750. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms, rules and guidelines in collecting Toll Tax on roads and bridges;

(b) how such contracts are given;

(c) whether they are required to pay Service Tax; and

(d) whether there is any time limit or monetary limit for collection of Toll Tax?